



The Hour

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FASCISTS RALLY TO AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE

The Hour has received reports from almost every section of the country which indicate that the Fifth Column is giving far more than mere lip-service to Charles A. Lindbergh and the America First Committee. The Committee has become a central organizing body for the forces of American fascism. Fifth Columnists are flooding into its ranks. It is open talk among them that the Committee will soon develop into an American National Socialist Party. Their hope is by no means unfounded.

In New York City the German-American Bund, the Christian Front, the Christian Mobilizers, the American Destiny Party, the Paul Revere Sentinels and a dozen other traitorous bands are humming with new activity. Revitalized under the banner of the America First Committee, they are harmoniously cooperating in their efforts to subvert American democracy. Mobilizer thugs peddle Lindbergh buttons. Bundites publicize America First meetings. Christian Fronters distribute tickets for every rally. Ardent Coughlinites and professional anti-Semites act as America First speakers. All regard the Committee as their own.

In Detroit the National Workers' League, the Ku Klux Klan and Gerald K. Smith's Committee of One Million have launched a vigorous pro-Lindbergh drive. Their henchmen gather at every America First rally. They distribute pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic leaflets outside the meetings that pack the Cass Tech High School auditorium. They boast that through the America First Committee the Black Legion will be reborn.

The Chicago Bund is concentrating all current efforts on America First activity. The Philadelphia Klan and Christian Front are ardently promoting the Lindbergh-Wheeler-Nye cause. The motley flock of G. Allison Phelps in Los Angeles; Pelley's Silver Shirts in the South and Middle West; readers of America In Danger!, pro-Nazi bulletin of Charles B. Hudson of Omaha, Nebraska; recipients of Kansas' fascist newspaper Publicity -- all are getting the same orders; join the America First Committee and support its program to the full. Throughout the country the story is the same.

American fascism has found the proper vehicle for its activities, the rallying point for its stormtroopers. Native Nazism is on the march.

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FUND FOR NAZI AGENT

On August 9, FBI men arrested Ernst Goerner, identified as a Nazi agent by The Hour in September, 1939. The charge leveled against Hitlerite Goerner by the U. S. Government was that of "counseling, aiding and abetting evasion of the Selective Service Act."

The Hour is now informed that key Nazi henchmen throughout the country are raising an "Ernst Goerner Defense Fund." A leaflet carrying a message signed by Mrs. Ernst Goerner appealing for money to aid her husband is being circulated in Fifth Column circles. The leaflet describes Goerner as a champion of democracy who "without remuneration or profit to himself, spent his meagre income and all of his time in championing the constitutional rights of American citizens and has fought the International Bankers and War Mongers, who have tried to undermine our nation and involve it in foreign wars." The statement concludes with a request that contributions be sent to Mrs. Ernst Goerner at 627 East State Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Role of Cherep-Spiridovich

We learn that among those most active in raising the Goerner fund is Lieutenant-General Count V. Cherep-Spiridovich, alias Victor H. Broenstrupp, whose career as a professional anti-Semite and fascist agent was described in The Hour on July 20, 1940. Cherep-Spiridovich is distributing Mrs. Goerner's appeal along with the regular Fifth Column propaganda material he sends to fellow fascists.

In his latest package of subversive propaganda, the bogus Lieutenant-General also includes the September 20 issue of X-Ray, a vicious Jew-baiting newspaper published in Muncie, Indiana, by Court Asher. Typical of the headlines in this Goebbels-style publication are "Jews, British And New Deal Using Every Trick Known To Man Or Devil To Get Us In Europe's War"; "Jew Deal's True Story"; "The Rosen-Velvet Boys"; and "Royal Fugitives Are Jew Refugees." The X-Ray quaintly enough describes itself as "A Weekly Newspaper Supporting the Democratic Principles of Thomas Jefferson."

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COUGHLIN ANGRY AT WYTHE WILLIAMS AND THE HOUR

In the September 29 issue of Social Justice, Father Charles E. Coughlin devotes the major portion of a page to furiously attacking Wythe Williams and The Hour. The proclaimed basis for the attack is that Mr. Williams and this newsletter are acting as agents for "international money masters" and "powerful subversive minority groups" whose aim, according to the priest of Royal Oak, is to drag the United States into the war.

The actual cause for Coughlin's tirade, of course, is that the sanctimonious pro-Nazi propagandist bristles at all publicity which exposes his connections with the fascists and which uncovers the devious machinations of Hitler's henchmen in this country. Mr. Williams and The Hour have done both.

The Social Justice article offers as proof of Mr. Williams' connections with "international bankers" the fact that during his career as a newspaperman and radio news-commentator Wythe Williams has been credited with many news scoops. How, asks Coughlin, did Wythe Williams get these scoops? Coughlin's answer is that the big financiers have "listening posts" throughout the world and the material gleaned from these posts is relayed by the "money masters" to Wythe Williams. In support of this elaborate theory, Coughlin observes:

"Although Mr. Williams is a newspaperman, yet he hasn't connections throughout the world among newspapermen generally who could furnish him with such authoritative and accurate information."

It therefore becomes quite clear, Coughlin points out, that "Wyeth [Coughlin's spelling] Williams has access to much of the information transmitted from financial listening posts in Europe, Asia and America, to Lazard Freres and Lehman Brothers."

The Hour "Exposed"

Social Justice's revelations about The Hour are ingenious, if nothing else. According to the pseudo-religious fascist pulp, we serve a somewhat remarkable double function; acting as spokesman for the "international bankers" and, at the same time, working as a "propaganda agency" for the Communist Party.

The real reason for Coughlin's violent disapproval of The Hour becomes quite obvious from these two paragraphs in the article in Social Justice:

"The Hour ... has concentrated its efforts on the exposure of Father Coughlin and is the author of many vain attempts to link the silenced Radio Priest with activities of so-called Christian Front groups.

"Many newspapers and radio commentators who featured 'inside' information on the notorious Christian Front 'conspiracy trial' drew largely upon the Hour for their data."

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"WOMEN DETERMINED"

An organization called Women Determined is acting as an official affiliate of the America First Committee, with the purpose of recruiting women to the appeasement movement in the United States.

The group is distributing "peace" propaganda, organizing "anti-war" demonstrations and doing whatever it can to rally support to the America First Committee. At the same time it is denying any connection with General Wood's appeasement body.

Mrs. Rose DeLuca, who is well-known in America First circles, heads Women Determined. On September 15, in the name of her organization she led a delegation of women to New York City Hall to demand from Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia a written declaration opposing additional U. S. aid to Great Britain and Russia. Newspaper reporters at the Mayor's office were told by the delegation: "We've got no connection with the America First Committee or with the Christian Front or with any other organization. We're just mothers and don't want our sons to go to war."

Three days before, Mrs. DeLuca had been less cautious about admitting the connection between Women Determined and the America First Committee. At a meeting in Corona, Long Island, she had stated:

"I want all mothers belonging to America First to be down at City Hall next Monday. Don't wear any America First buttons and don't show any other insignia. Don't tell reporters that we're members of America First. On Monday we'll just be plain ordinary 100% American mothers."

At the same meeting another speaker observed:

"Women Determined is not a political body and neither is the America First Committee. But at the primaries I urge you to vote for anybody but LaGuardia. I'm not telling you who to vote for. I'm just asking you to vote for anybody but LaGuardia."

Strategists of the America First Committee believe that Women Determined will be useful not only as an instrument for building appeasement sentiment but also as a front for pro-fascist political activity.

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